

# Missouri State Archives

## Finding Aid [998.184]

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### MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

#### USS Missouri Collection

*Abstract:* Photocopies of records and documentaries about the battleship *USS Missouri*.

*Extent:* ¼ cubic foot

*Physical Description:* Paper; VHS tapes; Photograph

*Location:* Missouri State Archives; Stacks

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

*Alternative Formats:* PDF

*Access Restrictions:* See staff for access to the VHS

*Publication Restrictions:* None

*Preferred Citation:* [item description], [date]; *USS Missouri Collection*, Record Group 998.184; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

*Acquisition Information:* Gift; Accession #1992-0010; #2018-0097

*Processing Information:* Processing completed by EW on 12/23/2016. Updated by EW on 03/24/2021.

### HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Quoted from p. 1 of the “Welcome Aboard” pamphlet in this collection:

“*USS Missouri*, ‘Mighty Mo,’ is the fourth ship and the second battleship to bear the name of the ‘Show Me’ state. The ship is also the last battleship built by the United States.

“The keel for the 58,000 ton Iowa-class battleship was laid in 1941 and *Missouri* was launched in 1944. The ship provided gunfire support in the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa

during World War II. On September 2, 1945 *Battleship Missouri* was the spot for the signing of a Formal Instrument of Surrender by Japan to the Allied Forces, ending World War II.

“*Missouri* was called on to participate in several shore bombardments off the coast of Korea between 1950 and 1953 before being decommissioned and placed in ‘mothballs’ at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington in 1955.

“*Missouri* was recommissioned in 1986 in San Francisco, California and departed on an Around-the-World Shakedown cruise – the first battleship to circumnavigate the world since President Theodore Roosevelt’s ‘Great White Fleet’ of 1907-1909. The ship is homeported in Long Beach, California.

“In 1987, *Missouri* journeyed to the troubled waters of the Persian Gulf, supporting shipping operations near the Strait of Hormuz. During 1988, *Missouri* participated in the Rim of the Pacific (RimPac) Exercise off the coast of Hawaii. Following a routine shipyard period in early 1989, *Missouri* returned to sea and later in the year participated in Pacific Exercise (PacEx) ’89 and visited Pusan, Korea.”

In 1991, the battleship was deployed again to the Persian Gulf and provided US support in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. It fired a total of 783 rounds and launched 28 Tomahawk cruise missiles during the Desert Storm campaign.

The *USS Missouri BB-63* was ultimately decommissioned on March 21, 1992. It sat for a while in Bremerton, WA until the Navy moved it to the Pearl Harbor Memorial in Hawaii in 1998.

## ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

### Related Collections

MS183 WWII Instrument of Surrender  
MS192 Gerald Massie Photograph Collection

Newell, Gordon R. Mighty MO, the U.S.S. Missouri; a Biography of the Last Battleship. Seattle, WA: Superior Pub. Co., 1969. Call No. R 359.32 N441.

Schroeder, Richard E. Missouri At Sea: Warships with Show-Me State Names. Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 2004. Call No. R 359.83 Sch761.

Stillwell, Paul. Battleship Missouri: An Illustrated History. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1996. Call No. R 359.32 St548.

Vertical File, Missouri State Archives

### Additional External Resources

Battleship Missouri Memorial, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii: <https://www.ussmissouri.org/>.

Library of Congress: [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov).

Naval Vessel Register:

[http://www.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDETAIL\\_BB\\_63\\_5083.HTML](http://www.nvr.navy.mil/SHIPDETAILS/SHIPSDETAIL_BB_63_5083.HTML)

## DOCUMENTS AND PHOTOGRAPH, 1944-1990s

*Arrangement:* None

### Scope and Content

This is a small series consisting mostly of photocopies of original records. Materials include a brochure on the *USS Missouri*, certificates of appreciation and documents regarding the silver dining service on board the ship.

Folders 4 & 5 are available as PDFs on Manuscript DVD #1 in the Reference Room.

### Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	13	4	Pamphlet "Welcome Aboard" describing the history of the <i>USS Missouri</i> (2 copies)	c1990
	13	5	Photocopies of two certificates of congratulations from Lawrence C. Black of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to the members of the <i>USS Missouri</i> for successfully completing their missions in Desert Shield and Desert Storm	1990s
	13	6	Photocopies of letters and other records related to the silver dining service set of the <i>USS Missouri</i> (copies obtained from the Truman Library)	1947-1986
	13	6A	Photograph of the Commissioning Ceremony, New York Harbor. Photo by U.S. Navy, #N-3003A (public domain).	June 1944

*See also MS192 Gerald R. Massie Collection Box 34 Folder 27 for additional materials.*

## DOCUMENTARIES, 1986-1991

*Arrangement:* Undated, then chronological

### Scope and Content

These are documentaries made of the *USS Missouri*. Format is VHS and the production company is unknown.

### Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
			USS Missouri BB-63 World Cruise	none
			USS Missouri BB-63 Recommissioning	05/10/1986
			USS Missouri Meeting the Challenge: A Call to Crisis, Operation Desert Shield/Storm	1990-1991